Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A tap, comprising:

a body formed of high speed tool steel and having (a) a threaded portion, (b) flutes each extending from an axially distal end thereof toward an axially proximal end thereof, and (c) a cutting edge provided by a rear-side one of widthwise opposite edges of a corresponding one of said flutes as viewed in a rotating direction of said tap,

____________wherein said threaded portion includes:

a chamfered portion provided by an axially distal end portion of said tap; and

a complete thread portion contiguous to said chamfered portion in an axial direction of said tap,

____________wherein a number of chamfered threads is not larger than 2.5 as counted along said axial direction, and

said threaded portion is coated with a diamond-like carbon coating which has a fine amorphous structure and which has a thickness of not larger than 0.4 μm.

2. (Currently Amended) A tap according to claim 1, further comprising a spiral-fluted tap having spiral flutes as said flutes.

3. (Original) A tap according to claim 1, wherein said number of chamfered threads is 1.5-2.0 as counted in said axial direction.

4. (Original) A tap according to claim 1, wherein said thickness of said diamond-like carbon coating is not smaller than 0.05 μm.

5. (Original) A tap according to claim 1, wherein said thickness of said diamond-like carbon coating is 0.1-0.3 μm.

6. (Original) A process of machining an internal thread in a workpiece made of a material including aluminum, by using the tap defined in claim 1, said process comprising:

a step of applying an air blow toward a machining point at which said workpiece is machined by said threaded portion of said tap, while at least one of said tap and said workpiece is rotated and moved relative to the other of said tap and said workpiece.

7. (Original) A process of machining an internal thread in a workpiece made of a material including aluminum, by using the tap defined in claim 1, said process comprising:

a step of applying an oil mist toward a machining point at which said workpiece is machined by said threaded portion of said tap, while at least one of said tap and said workpiece is rotated and moved relative to the other of said tap and said workpiece.